

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PPO 2017-2018 SEASON

Yoshikazu Fukumura.

The PPO's music director and maestro is known to be a builder of orchestras. He is determined to make PPO rank among the top five in Asia. He'll be on the podium for five of 8 season concerts. Hailed by music critics as "*vigorous, totally focused, fiery conductor who infused the almost 80-member PPO with his vitality and energy,*" Maestro Fukumura continues the excellent classical tradition with an exciting program and an outstanding roster of international guest soloists and renowned Filipino artists.

Star Soloists

See great soloists! Among the featured performers this season are Yury Shadrin, Raul Sunico and Ingrid Santamaria (piano), Ray Wang (cello), Tots Tolentino (saxophone), Gerard Salonga and Stefano Tsialis (conductors), Eduardo Fernandez (guitar), Raymond de Leon (trumpet), and Ricson Poonin (trombone).

Enjoy a Big Fat Greek Concert.

It's almost all Greek in Concert VI of the PPO. Maestro Stefanos Tsialis conducts the PPO in a program featuring 5 Greek Dances by Greek composer N. Skalkottas. Tsialis has been the chief conductor and artistic director of the Athens State Orchestra while Skalkottas is a luminary of Greek music in the 20th century. To top off the program, music of Czech Smetana and Russian Shostakovich will be performed.

The long lost (and found) Rossini Opera

Listen to music that was lost in the cobwebs of time for two hundred years. *Il Viaggio a Reims* (Journey to Reims) was composed in 1825 for the coronation of Charles X at Reims where French kings are crowned. The music was chopped up and became part of other pieces. An American musicologist put it back together again and this piece finally was played in whole again in 1984 at the Rossini Opera Festival at Pesaro, Italy. PPO plays the Overture in Concert 1 which also features pianist Yury Shadrin, Artistic Director of the Baltimore Piano Festival.

Hear the Voice of God

The trombone has been called the Voice of God---when he's in a bad mood. That's because the sound of the trombone can be deep and sonorous and thus is used to heighten drama and depict sadness, fear and terror. Trombone players usually don't get much of the spotlight but in Concert V it does when Ricson Poonin plays the trombone in the Trombone Concertino in E flat. Maestro Herminigildo Ranera is guest conductor for this concert.

Play Catch Me if You Can.

Romp with saxophonist Tots Tolentino and guest conductor Gerard Salonga in Concert III. They're playing Jazz classic *Porgy and Bess*, and John Williams' *Escapades for Alto Sax and Orchestra* from the film *Catch Me If You Can*.

Pianistic Fireworks

Piano virtuosos and giants of Philippine music Raul Sunico and Ingrid Santamaria get together in Concert VII will rock *Mendelssohn's Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra in A Flat*. That Mendelssohn wrote this piece at the age of 14 makes it even more amazing.

Chill with Chinese cellist Ray Wang.

Virtuoso cellist Ray Wang is one of the most sought after teachers of the cello in Asia. In Concert II, he plays French composer E. Lalo's *Cello Concerto in D Minor*.

Great Guitar and Debussy's La Mer.

Concert IV stars one of the world's best guitarists Uruguayan Eduardo Fernandez. Debussy's ode to the sea *La Mer*, considered one of the greatest achievements in symphonic literature, is also on the program.

Delius, De Falla, De Leon and Trumpet Music.

In Concert VIII, award-winning musician Raymond de Leon will perform Haydn's beloved *Trumpet Concerto*. *El Sombrero de Tres Picos* by De Falla, regarded as one of Spain's greatest composers, is ballet music while Delius' *A Walk to Paradise Garden* is a romantic interlude that is part of his opera *A Village Romeo and Juliet*.